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SUBJECT

Security Breach in Britain

JEAN COCHRAN: There are other domestic problems mounting for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her ministers. Today, Thatcher will try to explain one of them to Parliament.

Larry Miller reports.

LARRY MILLER: With rumors abounding that a major spy scandal was about to break, Prime Minister Thatcher had little choice but to make a public statement in the House of Commons.

Last week a man was charged with espionage, said to have taken place between 1968 and last December at the government's top secret communications headquarters at Cheltenham. Duncan Campbell, a British security expert, says the alleged espionage occurred in perhaps the most sensitive division.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL: The department most responsible for dealing with Russian signals and handling the information about what we were getting, what Britain was getting in terms of breaking Russian codes, was, over the long period, penetrated by people supplying information to the Soviet Union.

MILLER: Cheltenham is one of the most secret defense establishments in Europe. It's linked to the National Security Agency in the United States and to NATO.

For National Public Radio, this is Larry Miller in London.

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